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DO YOU KNOW?

Professor Louis Goldberg seeks an answer to a minor puzzle concerning the identification of another Gilman. The following represents Professor Goldberg's observations and question. If you have the answer, you may communicate it to the editor and to Professor Goldberg.

Recently, I was glancing at a pamphlet entitled, "Business Analysis," published in Chicago in 1929 by the International Accountants Society, Inc., a division of the Alexander Hamilton Institute. It is, in effect, a promotional document for undertaking the study course provided by the Society.

On page 2 of the pamphlet, the "Organization" of the Society is provided which includes a list of directors. Among the list of directors is the name and information, "Stephen Gilman, B.Sc., C.P.A. Member of the Advisory Board, International Accountants Society, Inc., and author of *Principles of Accounting, Analyzing Financial Statements*, etc." This provides a clear identification of this person as the

subsequent author of *Accounting Concepts of Profit*, which had a great impact on accounting thought for many years.

Below the Board of Directors, there is a list of Active Faculty which includes the name of Paul W. Pinkertin, C.P.A., who, along with W.A. Paton, Gilman tendered thanks in his Preface to *Accounting Concepts of Profits* for having read the entire manuscript and for giving helpful comments.

Next, the Advisory Board of the Society is listed, and my minor puzzle develops. Among those listed is Stephen Gilman, B.Sc., C.P.A. and Stephen W. Gilman, LL.D., C.P.A. Who is Stephen W. Gilman? Does this represent two references to the same person? Is this just a printer's error?

Likely a simple explanation exists. If anyone can provide additional information to satisfy my curiosity of what may appear a matter of trivial interest, I would greatly appreciate your help.

SEMINAR ON ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING TAIWAN AND CHINA MEET

*Reported by
Professor Wen Shuo, Director
Yong-You Institute of Accounting and Auditing Research*

Taiwan and China came together for a seminar on accounting and auditing on July 5, 1991. This six-day meeting was held at the Friendship Hotel in Beijing and was the first in 42 years. The seminar was co-sponsored by the Yong-You Institute of Accounting and Auditing Research in

Beijing, the Management Accounting Association, and the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Taiwan.

The seminar included 37 scholars and practitioners of accounting and auditing from Taiwan, more than 80 from China, and 25 reporters. Dr. Stephen Yam of the

Chinese University of Hong Kong was also in attendance. In a cordial and friendly atmosphere, the developments of accounting and auditing in Taiwan and China for the past 42 years were reviewed, and the future prospects of accounting and auditing encompassing the whole Chinese nation were jointly discussed. Several agreements on exchange and cooperation in some fields of accounting research and practice were achieved. In addition, topics of common interest were discussed including the role of accounting and auditing in the strategic management of enterprises, the security markets, certified public accountants, world developments in accounting and auditing, and the efficient use of accounting information by entrepreneurs.

It has long been observed that accounting and auditing systems in Taiwan and China differ greatly because of differences in their economic systems. China uses accounting and auditing methods directed by socialist economic theories, where as, those used by Taiwan are similar to those used in Western countries. Economic interchange in several fields has occurred since China's opening to the outside world and adopting of the policy of "one state with two systems." The great differences in accounting and auditing systems have become obstacles to the economic interchange. Thus, an opportunity for better understanding of these differences has been sought by both sides.

Professor Wen Shuo, Director of Yong-Yuo Institute of Accounting and Auditing Research and initiator of the seminar, made the point in his opening address, "The reason why Yong-You Institute, as a non-government research institution with an age of less than one year, paid a lot of money, labor, and material resources to sponsor this seminar and facilitate the first gathering of accounting and auditing cycles from both sides of the Taiwan Straits, is the intention of clearing the

long-standing obstruction in this important field between us, and providing accounting and auditing profession and academia with an opportunity to understand each other, and even to cooperate with each other....China is approaching a completely new era. In the process of promoting world accounting and auditing undertakings, China should display an attitude of positive participation and a spirit of high responsibility. Facing the rapid developments in world accounting and auditing, China should not be an onlooker. It is the commonly pursuing goal of and the unavoidable responsibility for accounting and auditing cycles on both sides of the Taiwan Straits to let China know the world, to let the world know China, and to let China advance side by side with the whole world. First of all, in order to do so, we Chinese should understand each other."

A book exhibition was held in conjunction with the seminar. Approximately 1,000 accounting and auditing journals and books from Taiwan and China were displayed. A ceremony was held to contribute the Series of Doctoral Dissertations on Accounting and Auditing, which contains five books and is the first such publication of this kind, and a series of lectures on various issues in modern accounting and auditing to the National Library of China.

The seminar aroused broad interest and attention among Chinese peoples in each country and in other countries as well. The Xinhua News Agency, *People's Daily*, *China Daily*, CCTV, Radio Beijing, and several Hong Kong and Taiwan newspapers were among the more than 20 mass media representatives. Several leading world accounting and auditing scholars provided additional congratulatory recognition of the achievements of the seminar. These included Dr. Paul Graner, Professor Murray Wells, and Professor Lawrence Sawyer.